

PRESS RELEASE | 29 November 2025

Exhibition Opening



APPEARING

Group Exhibition

29 November – 10 January 2025

Opening: Saturday, 29 November 2025, 7:00 – 9:00 PM



Niloofar Rahnama

Blue Room, 2025

Oil, Canvas

160 x 120 cm (63 x 47 in)

Vida Heydari Contemporary is pleased to announce the opening of our latest exhibition, **APPEARING**, a group presentation featuring works by **Arieno Kera, Katayoun Karami, Monali Meher, Niloofar Rahnama, Ritika Sharma, and Sejal Parekh**, conceived as a landscape of spatial imagination that maps how we enter, hold, and resist the spaces we inhabit. Here, space becomes both tangible and felt: a site that shapes bodies, dictates movement, and is continually negotiated through presence, memory, and quiet defiance.

Curated by **Yash Vikram**, the exhibition explores how architectures of control, domestic interiors, and inherited histories become terrains to be reclaimed. Through performance, painting, drawing, and video, the artists navigate fragility, surveillance, feminine labour, and lineage—asserting spatial belonging against systems that demand compliance. **APPEARING** foregrounds these embodied gestures as acts of survival, reconfiguration, and becoming.

The exhibition will preview on **Saturday, 29 November, 2025** from **7:00 to 9:00 PM** at **Vida Heydari Contemporary**. It will run through **Saturday, 10 January, 2026**.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

ARIENO KERA

Arieno Kera, born in 1999, belongs to the Naga indigenous community and is currently based in Nagaland.

She is interested in process-based art practice and engages with painting, drawing, installation and video, as an archive of local tradition and cultural memory. Exploring a material-based practice she engages critically with tools of representation derived from various traditional elements from her own indigenous background from Nagaland and interprets them into contemporary idioms of image making conversing with practice of drawing as an interface of representation, process and mark making. She translates personal experience into a performative signifier of memory and transformation.

Arieno Kera lives and works in Kohima, Nagaland.

KATAYOUN KARAMI

Katayoun Karami, born in 1967, in Tehran, Iran, is a contemporary artist whose practice explores memory, gender, identity, and the social conditions that shape collective and personal experience. Trained in architecture at the Middle East Technical University in Ankara, Turkey, Karami developed a deep sensitivity to form, structure, and space, elements that inform her conceptual approach to art. Working across photography, installation, and mixed media, she interrogates how representation—particularly of women—intersects with history, politics, and communal narratives. Her work often emerges from lived realities and shared experiences, creating space for reflection on the fragility and resilience of human bonds.

Since the 1990s, Karami has exhibited widely in Iran and internationally, with solo and group shows in Tehran, Tabriz, Amsterdam, Dubai, and Pune. Notable presentations include *Amnesia and Hypermnesia*, Tehran (2020), *Speaking from the Heart, Framer Framed*, Amsterdam, (2013), and *POSTFORM, VHC*, Pune, (2022). She was awarded the first prize at the *Ibda'a Awards* in Dubai (2002), and her work continues to be recognised for its experimental, socially engaged character.

Katayoun Karami lives and works in Tehran, Iran.

MONALI MEHER

Monali Meher, born in 1969 in Pune, India, is a multidisciplinary artist who studied at the Sir J. J. School of Art, Mumbai. Over the past decades, she has performed and exhibited internationally at major venues including Tate Modern, Rijksmuseum Twenthe, MAXXI Museum Rome, and Art Dubai. Recipient of the Golden Chimera Award at the ICASTICA Biennial (2013) and the NN Art Award at Art Rotterdam (2023), Meher has also participated in the Thessaloniki, Dakar, and Kathmandu Biennales.

Her practice—spanning performance and site-specific installations—centres on time, memory, and transformation, as seen in her long-term public work *The Bridge Is Open* (2011) in Amsterdam. Supported by institutions such as AFK and Fonds BKVB, she has undertaken residencies at UNESCO-Aschberg, Vienna, Rijksakademie, Amsterdam, Casa Masaccio, Italy, and KHOJ, New Delhi.

Monali Meher lives and works in Ghent, Belgium.

NILOOFAR RAHNAMA

Niloofar Rahnama, born in 1975 is an Iranian visual artist whose practice spans painting and installation. She earned her BFA (1995) and MFA (1998) in Painting from Azad University of Art in Tehran. Over the past two decades, she has exhibited widely across Europe, the Middle East, the United States, and Asia, with solo shows at leading galleries in Tehran and Paris.

Rahnama's work draws from personal experience, exploring themes of instability, war, loss, motherhood, and memory. Her layered and intuitive process involves covering, revealing, and erasing forms—creating a dialogue between presence and absence. This transformation gives her paintings a sense of movement and emotional resonance.

In addition to her studio practice, Rahnama teaches painting and illustrates children's books, extending her creative vision into education and storytelling.

Niloofar Rahnama lives and works in Tehran, Iran.

RITIKA SHARMA

Ritika Sharma was born in 1994 in Delhi, India. She has completed her Bachelor's in Fine Arts (2015) and Master's in Fine Arts (2017) both in Painting from the College of Art, Delhi. Her artistic practice investigates everyday experiences, observations, local spaces, and their involved politics through mixed media works.

Ritika Sharma has participated in prominent exhibitions, including "Beyond the Gaze" at Alliance Francaise, Dhaka, Bangladesh in 2024, "Art For Climate Action" by Ministry of Textiles at National Crafts Museum in 2023, "Yuva Sambhav" by Raza Foundation at Bikaner House in 2022, and many others. She has also been actively participating in artist residencies, workshops, and courses including "Summer Residency" at LAMO, Ladakh 2024, "Beyond the Gaze 2023" - an international workshop by Photo South Asia, Space Studio - BICAR Writing Fellowship 2023, "On-Screens" by Reliable Copy in 2021 and "Coloring the World" - an artist residency at Piramal Art Foundation in 2019. Her practice has been recognized with the Emerging Artist Award in 2024, the Space118 Fine Art Grant in 2024, and the Inlaks Fine Art Award in 2025.

Ritika Sharma lives and works in Noida, India.

SEJAL PAREKH

Sejal Parekh, born in 1979, is a British-born, Indian multidisciplinary artist whose practice spans sound, sculpture, and installation. Her work re-examines the everyday architectures of power that shape how we live, move, listen, and remember. Engaging with feminist, diasporic, and decolonial frameworks, she uses language and sound as material forms to reconfigure the familiar and explore how memory is held in the body and transmitted through space.

Parekh has exhibited at venues including MACBA, Hoxton Gallery, Ovada Gallery, SWAB Art Fair, and FlagLab Curatorial Project, with commissions from La Roca Village and Galería Senda, among others. Her work is part of the Soho House collection.

A graduate of Winchester School of Art (BA Fine Art, 2001), Parekh earned her MFA in Sculpture from the Royal College of Art, London (2025), supported by the Deputy Vice Chancellor Scholarship.

Sejal Parekh lives and works in London, UK.

ABOUT CURATOR YASH VIKRAM

Yash Vikram (he/him) is an independent art curator and consultant with a background in engineering, he is dedicated to exhibition-making practices that amplify underrepresented artistic voices. His curatorial practice focuses on ecosystems of care, ways of looking and sharing, and the politics of the everyday, how we engage, surveil, and reflect. Through his work, Yash fosters dialogues that challenge and expand conventional narratives and ways of seeing within the art ecosystem.

He founded the Ether Project, a nomadic art platform committed to supporting diverse artistic voices from South Asia, reflecting his dedication to making contemporary art more accessible and inclusive, reaching beyond major urban centers to engage wider audiences. His recent curatorial projects include *Shaping Time: Performance as Practice* at Akar Prakar, New Delhi (2024); *Isotropical Futures* at Tao Art Gallery, Mumbai (2025); *Everybody's Elsewhere* with Ether Project at Devlalikar Kala Vithika, Indore (2025) and *Tickle a Memory* at MAG Contemporary, New Delhi (2025). He was also the curatorial advisor for the first edition of SA Biennale held in Leh, Ladakh, 2023.

Yash Vikram lives and works between New Delhi and Varanasi.

ABOUT VIDA HEYDARI CONTEMPORARY

Vida Heydari Contemporary is an international art gallery in Pune specialising in contemporary art and representing established and emerging artists with diverse backgrounds, across a variety of mediums and genres.

Founded in 2020 with an emphasis on authenticity, quality and innovation, Vida Heydari Contemporary aims to contribute to the cultural fabric of the city. The gallery is committed to fostering the careers of its artists and sharing their work with a global audience, providing a platform for under-represented artists, presenting pioneering museum-quality exhibitions, positive collaborations, price transparency and offering a very hands-on and tailored high-quality experience.

In less than four years from its inception, Vida Heydari Contemporary has mounted significant exhibitions featuring local and international artists. It has also participated in some of the most prestigious art fairs, such as Art Basel Hong Kong, India Art Fair and Art Mumbai. In addition to the gallery program, Vida Heydari Contemporary hosts talks, performances, workshops and educational programs to create engaging and enriching artistic experiences that capture the essence of life.

Vida Heydari Contemporary - Marvel Alaina, Lane 8, Koregaon Park, Pune, India.

Web: <https://www.vhc.art/>

IG: <https://www.instagram.com/vhc.art/>

FB: <https://www.facebook.com/vhc.art/>

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Press Kit:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1nrDX9sLHVdma0f3aPfFKp7HmrWe7sEM?usp=sharing>

Interviews can be arranged with the artists and the gallery director Vida Heydari.